Torn down

718 Spruce Brook Road

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey #161

1780 current owner: Frances Irwin

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#161

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR	IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)

2. TOWN CITY: Berlin | VILLAGE: | COUNTY: Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 718-20 Spruce Brook Road 23-1/156/1

4. OWNER(S): Irwin, Frances S. 673 Spruce Brood Road Berlin 06037 ☐ Public ☒ Private

5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Vernacular | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1780

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☐ Cut stone Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)

(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ☒ Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 34' x 30'

12. CONDITION (Structural) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated | (Exterior) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations) ☒ Yes ☐ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN: much 19th century fabric

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☐ Residential ☒ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☒ Rural ☐ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

One of a small concentration of 18th-century houses near the corner of Spruce Brook and Savage Hill roads.

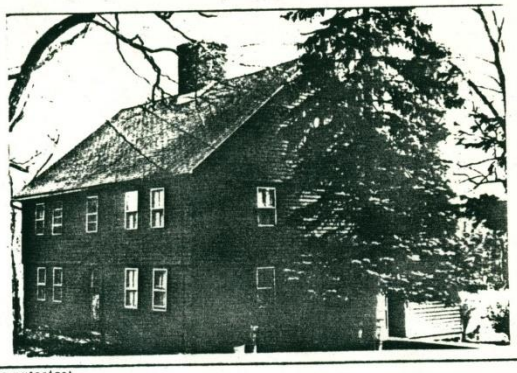
1.

161

PHOTO		
PHOTOGRAPHER: HRC		DATE: 11/84
VIEW: SE	NEGATIVE ON FILE: H25	

COMPILED BY	
NAME: Historic Resource Consultants	DATE: 12/84
ORGANIZATION: The Colt Armory	
ADDRESS: 55 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106	

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:



DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

This house has a five-bay facade with a central entry and hewn overhangs at the second floor and across the gable ends. Windows are small and are fitted with 2-over-2 sash and modern storm sash. Facade windows are paired and offset towards the corners of the house. Second-floor facade windows are located immediately under the eaves. The entry has one plain pilaster (right) and one molded pilaster (left) and a slightly projecting molded, peaked hood. The right elevation has a small framed-in rear porch. To the rear is a one-and-one-half story wing with vertical-board siding.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT | BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Although much of the fabric including, quite possibly, the brick foundation date from the 19th century, this house is nonetheless notable because of the substantial signs of its original 18th-century construction that still remain. An adaptation of traditional English building techniques to a harsh climate rich in stone, timber, and firewood, the central chimney house was the predominant domestic building type in 18th-century New England. It remained popular in relatively isolated areas such as Berlin until after 1800. Typical 18th-century features present here include the hewn overhangs, small paired and offset windows, the location of the second-floor windows immediately under the eaves, ridge-parallel orientation, and the central chimney plan itself. The pilasters framing the front entry (or the one that may be original, at least) place the house toward the end of the 18th century, when Georgian-derived detailing began to appear (continued)

19. (continued):

as embellishments on vernacular dwellings.

Little could be uncovered about the early history of this house.